

# **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

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## **THE PROJECT MANAGER'S LIEUTENANT FOR LOGISTICS: A STUDY OF THE CHIEF LOGISTICIAN'S KEY ROLES IN REDUCING OPERATION AND SUPPORT COSTS DURING DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS**

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Extremely high weapon system Operation and Support (O&S) costs have become one of the central issues within the Department of Defense. Historically, O&S Costs represent 60% to 80% of the total life-cycle cost of weapon systems. Consequently, minor increases in O&S Costs across many systems can have major impacts to the efficient execution of the defense budget, restrict the ability to maintain readiness, and deplete funding needed for modernization. The principal finding of this research is that the Chief Logistician of a developmental project office can radically reduce future O&S Costs by fulfilling several key roles during a short time-frame in the system life-cycle. These key roles include a number of strategic imperatives, a half-dozen unique activities related to both the design of the weapon system and the logistics plans for supporting the system, and a full understanding of the techniques to overcome existing inhibitors. Finally, suggestions are presented for over-hauling the Chief Logistician's status in a typical project office to more effectively deal with these difficult challenges of system development.

**KEYWORDS:** Operation and Support Costs, Total Ownership Cost Reduction, Chief Logistician, Project Manager, Life Cycle Management

